

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 96-033
NPDES NO. CA0006165

AMENDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

RHONE-POULENC BASIC CHEMICALS CO.,
MARTINEZ PLANT
MARTINEZ, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, (hereinafter called the Board) finds that:

1. The Board issued Waste Discharge Requirements to Rhone-Poulenc Basic Chemicals Co., (hereinafter called the Discharger), under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit number CA0006165, Order No. 93-060 on June 16, 1993.
2. The Discharger manufactures sulfuric acid by regenerating acid using spend acid, sulfuric acid sludges from oil refinery alkylation processes and the burning of sulfur. The plant intermittently discharges treated wastewater, stormwater runoff, and treated groundwater into its deepwater outfall located in Carquinez Strait, a water of the United States.
3. The Discharger is classified as a major one by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and this Board. The treated effluent discharges to Carquinez Strait through a deepwater water outfall, and the effluent limitations contained in Order No. 93-060 are based on a dilution ratio of 10:1.
4. The Board adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) on June 21, 1995. The Basin Plan identifies beneficial uses and water quality objectives for surface waters in the region, as well as effluent limitations and discharge prohibitions intended to protect those uses. This Order implements the plans, policies, and provisions of the Board's Basin Plan.
5. This Order amends the existing acute toxicity limitations contained in Order No. 93-060. The limitations contained in this Order are based on the Basin Plan, and apply to intermittent dischargers.
6. The amendment of waste discharge requirements for this discharge is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21000 of Division 13) of the Public Resources Code (CEQA) pursuant to Section 13389 of the California Water Code.
7. The Board notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend waste discharge requirements, and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- A. Effluent Limitation A.4. contained in Order No. 93-060 be amended as follows:

Order No. 96-033

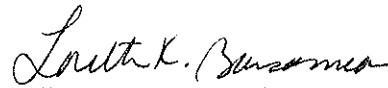
"Waste 001 shall meet the following acute toxicity limitation:

The survival of test fishes in a 96-hour static renewal bioassay of the effluent as discharged shall be an 11-sample median value of not less than 90 percent survival, and a 90th percentile value of not less than 70% survival."

a. 90th percentile is defined as follows: if one more of the past ten or fewer samples show less than 70 percent survival, then survival of less than 70 percent of the next sample represents a violation of the effluent limitation.

B. This Order shall serve as an amended National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit pursuant to Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, or amendments thereto, and shall become effective on the date of adoption provided the Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, has no objections. If the Administrator objects to its issuance, the modifications shall not become effective until such objection is withdrawn.

I, Loretta K. Barsamian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on March 20, 1996.


Loretta K. Barsamian
Executive Officer